

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5896

UNCLAS LAGOS 8416

STADIS////////

FOR JOHN M. THOMAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AFSP

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION EXPENSES

1. IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER AUGUST 23, ON REPRESENTATION COSTS:

(A) STATE REPRESENTATIONAL COSTS FOR FY 74 IN NIGERIA WERE DOLS. 20,946 OUT OF WHICH DOLS 6,346 WERE OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES FOR WHICH NO FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE.

(B) OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH ARE NOT REIMBURSABLE AMOUNTED TO 13,164 DOLS.

(C) THE TWO MAJOR FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED COST OF REPRESENTATION IN NIGERIA ARE: (1) A 7 PERCENT DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR DURING THE PERIOD APRIL/JULY 1974; (2) AND 18 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICE INDEX FOR NIGERIA (UN STATISTICS) FROM DECEMBER 1972 TO DECEMBER 1973 (FROM 172.9 TO 203.9). IN ADDITION THE NEW FUND AFFLUENCE OF NIGERIA DUE TO INCREASED OIL REVENUES HAS OPENED UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING TRADE PROMOTION AND INVESTMENT EFFORTS AND ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL OFFICERS ARE EXPANDING THEIR CONTACTS IN LAGOS AND IN THE STATE CAPITAL. ANTICIPATED ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR HAVE INCREASED POLITICAL AND LABOR UNION ACTIVITY IDENTIFYING NEW COMERS FOR POLITICAL OFFICERS TO INCLUDE IN THEIR SPHERE

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OF CONTACTS. THE COMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE PRESENT REPRESENTATION LEVELS
BY 50 PERCENT.

2. THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN LAGOS NOVEMBER 1975
HAS BEEN WIDELY TOUTED IN THE US AND SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICAN
VISITORS ARE EXPECTED. MANY VISITING ARTISTS WILL BE OF SUCH
NOTE THAT THE EMBASSY WILL WANT TO PRESENT THEM AT REPRESENTATION
FUNCTIONS. PRESENT ESTIMATE WILL CALL FOR AN ADDITIONAL
DOLS. 1500.

3. REPRESENTATION COSTS ONLY TO STATE EMPLOYEES IN NIGERIA WILL
REACH DOLS 36,000 IF PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED COMMITMENTS ARE MET.
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